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3400 Forest Pest Management

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Hazard Tree Evaluation - Herman Creek Trailhead

Forest Supervisor, Mount Hood NF

On March 6, Gregory M. Filip and Craig L. Schmitt, Plant Pathologists from Forest Pest Management at the Regional Office, visited the Columbia Gorge Ranger District. Purpose of the visit was to identify and mark hazard trees within the proposed Herman Creek Trailhead as recommended during an interdisciplinary team meeting on February 27. They were accompanied by John Robbins, District Landscape Architect.

The chief concern about the proposed site is the presence of laminated root rot caused by *Phellinus weirii* as identified in an earlier report (see Hazard Tree Evaluation, Herman Creek Trailhead, February 10, 1984). Several large disease centers occupy most of the 6-acre area and contain dead, dying, and windthrown trees. Hazard trees were marked with two orange tags and numbered.

Hazard trees were identified primarily by observing crown symptoms. Dead trees and trees with advanced crown symptoms of laminated root rot, such as thin and yellowing foliage and an overabundance of small cones, were marked for removal. Trees adjacent to infected trees were examined by partially excavating one or two main lateral roots and noting the presence of ectotrophic mycelium and internal stain or decay. Trees were also bored at their base to detect butt decay. Trees with ectotrophic mycelium or root and butt decay were marked for removal. Basically, any tree that would die in 10 years -- those with signs of laminated root rot -- were marked for removal. This procedure was used in the section designated for overnight use. In the area designated for parking -- an area identified earlier as having no signs of root disease -- trees were marked for removal, based on crown symptoms and bole condition. All trees with dead tops, very thin crowns, bole conks, and large trunk scars were marked for removal. All of these were adjacent to the proposed parking lot or comfort station.

The following is a list of 41 trees that were marked for removal in the proposed Herman Creek Trailhead:

Tree No.	Unit No. or Location	Tree Species	DBH	Failure Indicator
1	Spur 1	DF	30	Stain/decay in butt
2	1	DF	30	Dead tree
3	1	DF	26	Thin crown, distress cones
4	1	DF	36	Thin crown, distress cones
5	2	DF	14	Leaning, thin crown
6	2	DF	18	Thin crown
7	2	DF	16	Dead tree
8	2	DF	18	Thin crown, bark beetles
9	2	DF	12	Ectotrophic mycelium
10	2	DF	28	Thin crown
11	Road	DF	30	Thin crown, butt decay
12	Road	DF	18	Thin crown

Tree No.	Unit No. or Location	Tree Species	DBH	Failure Indicator
13	Spur 4	DF	18	Thin crown
14	4	Alder	Clump	All dead
15	3	DF	14	Thin crown, stain/decay
16	4	DF	30	Thin crown, ectotrophic mycelium
17	4	DF	12	Between two infected trees
18	4	DF	10	Between two infected trees
19	4	DF	16	Ectotrophic mycelium
20	Road	DF	20	Thin crown, distress cones
21	Road	DF	14	Decayed roots
22	Road	DF	20	Thin crown
23	Road	DF	14	Adj. to seveal inf. trees
24	Road	DF	16	Adj. to inf. tree
25	Spur 4	DF	30	P. schweinitzii conks
26	Parking Lot	DF	26	Thin crown
27	Parking Lot	DF	26	Dead tree
28	Parking Lot	DF	30	Dead top
29	Parking Lot	DF	18	Thin crown
30	Parking Lot	DF	24	Thin crown
31	Parking Lot	DF	22	Large fire scar
32	Parking Lot	DF	18	Large fire scar
33	Parking Lot	DF	14	Large fire scar
34	Parking Lot	DF	34	Fomes pini conks
35	Parking Lot	DF	30	Large open wound
36	Parking Lot	DF	14	Yellow thin crown
37	Parking Lot	DF	24	Thin crown
38	Parking Lot	DF	14	Thin crown
39	Parking Lot	DF	16	Thin crown
40	Parking Lot	DF	22	Cross member in bole
41	Parking Lot	DF	22	Cross member in bole

Windthrow of root infected trees will continue to be a problem on the site as the disease continues to expand. However, all of the trees with current high failure potential were marked for removal. Also, areas with an abundance of hardwoods will be free from hazard associated with laminated root rot. Following tree removal and site development, we recommend that hardwoods and conifers besides Douglas-fir be regenerated wherever possible to prevent spread and future hazard associated with root diseased trees. Also, the site should be examined again for hazard trees following development.

If FPM can be of further service, please contact us.

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